

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

APRIL 24, 2006

DESOTO MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 20, 2006, **DOUGLAS W. BARNETT**, age 43, of Desoto, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. BARNETT, who had previously pled guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, was sentenced to 151 months' imprisonment, 5 years' supervised released, and was fined \$850.

The violation occurred between December 2002, and October 13, 2004, in Jackson County. BARNETT received an enhanced sentence based on the presence of firearms during the methamphetamine conspiracy.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. The Desoto Police Department also assisted in the investigation.

The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.